c.) Amendments to the Claims.

Please amend claims 3-5, 8-10, 13-16, 18, 19, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 30 as follows:

1. (original) An isolated polypeptide which is a heptad portion of a Henipavirus F protein that function to inhibit fusion of a membrane of a paramyxovirus and a plasma membrane of a cell.

2. (original) The polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide comprises a biologically active fragment of a heptad portion of a Henipavirus F protein that functions to inhibit fusion of a membrane of a paramyxovirus and a plasma membrane of a cell.

3. (currently amended) The polypeptide of ~~claims 1-2~~ claim 1 wherein said polypeptide comprises a deletion, substitutional, or insertional variant of a heptad portion of a Henipavirus F protein that functions to inhibit fusion of a membrane of a paramyxovirus and a plasma membrane of a cell.

4. (currently amended) The polypeptide of ~~claims 1-3~~ claim 1 wherein said polypeptide is recombinant.

5. (currently amended) The peptide of ~~claims 1-4~~ claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is derived from HeV or NiV.

6. (original) A polypeptide that comprises the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO 1 or SEQ ID NO 2.

7. (original) The polypeptide of claim 6 wherein said polypeptide comprises a biologically active fragment of SEQ ID NO 1 or SEQ ID NO 2.

8. (currently amended) The polypeptide of ~~claims 6-7~~ claim 6 wherein said polypeptide comprises a deletion, substitutional, or insertional variant of SEQ ID NO 1 or SEQ ID NO 2.

9. (currently amended) The polypeptide of ~~claims 6-8~~ claim 6 wherein said polypeptide is recombinant.

10. (currently amended) The peptide of ~~claims 6-9~~ claim 6 wherein the polypeptide is derived from HeV or NiV.

11. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO 1 or SEQ ID NO 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. (original) The composition of claim 11 comprising a biologically active fragment of SEQ ID NO 1 or SEQ ID NO 2.

13. (currently amended) The composition of ~~claims 11-12~~ claim 11 comprising a deletion, substitutional, or insertional variant of SEQ ID NO 1 or SEQ ID NO 2.

14. (currently amended) The composition of ~~claims 11-13~~ claim 11 wherein the composition is a therapeutic or post-exposure prophylactic.

15. (currently amended) The composition of ~~claims 11-13~~ claim 11 wherein the composition is a vaccine.

16. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting fusion between a membrane of a paramyxovirus and a plasma membrane of a cell comprising administering a composition according to ~~claims 11-15~~ claim 11 .

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said paramyxovirus is of the genus *Henipavirus*.

18. (currently amended) The method of ~~claims 16 or 17~~ claim 16 wherein said paramyxovirus is of the subfamily *Paramyxovirina*.

19. (currently amended) The method of ~~claims 16-18~~ claim 16 wherein said paramyxovirus is HeB or NiV.

20. (original) An isolated polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that inhibits fusion between a membrane of a paramyxovirus and a plasma membrane of a cell, wherein said polynucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO 1; and

a DNA sequence capable of hybridizing under high stringency conditions to the complement of a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO 1.

21. (original) A vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence of claim 20.

22. (original) A cell comprising a polynucleotide sequence of claim 20.

23. (currently amended) A method for treating infection with a virus, comprising administering the composition of ~~claims 11-15~~ claim 11 .

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said virus is a paramyxovirus.

25. (currently amended) The method of ~~claims 23 or 24~~ claim 23 wherein said paramyxovirus is of the genus *Henipavirus*.

26. (currently amended) The method of ~~claims 23-25~~ claim 23 wherein said virus is HeV or NiV.

27. (original) An aptamer of a heptad portion of a Henipavirus F protein that functions to inhibit fusion of a membrane of a paramyxovirus and a plasma membrane of a cell.

28. (original) An aptamer of a polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO 1 or SEQ ID NO 2.

29. (currently amended) The biologically active fragment of an aptamer of ~~claims 27 or 28~~ claim 27.

30. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting fusion between a membrane of a paramyxovirus and a plasma membrane of a cell comprising administering an effective amount of an aptamer of ~~claims 27-29~~ claim 27.